

Detroit River International Crossing Study

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

March 23, 2006

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Detroit River International Crossing Study

## Presentation Outline

- ❖ Study Purpose & Participants
- ❖ Budget
- ❖ Public Involvement
- ❖ Evaluation of Alternatives

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Detroit River International Crossing Study

## Why a Border Transportation Partnership?

- ❖ Need for long-term improvements was recognized
- ❖ Within the mandates of:
  - ✓ U.S. Federal Highway Administration
  - ✓ Transport Canada
  - ✓ Michigan Department of Transportation
  - ✓ Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- ❖ Both countries must agree to make a new crossing happen!

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## Cooperating Federal Agencies – U.S.

- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. General Services Administration
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of State




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## President's Security & Prosperity Partnership (SPP)

- ❖ Trilateral effort (Canada/U.S./Mexico) to increase security and enhance prosperity among the three countries through greater cooperation and information-sharing
- ❖ The DRIC is mentioned in the President's Security Action Plan three times:
  - ✓ December 2006 – Final set of crossing alternatives
  - ✓ December 2007 – Preferred alternative
  - ✓ June 2013 – Open to traffic

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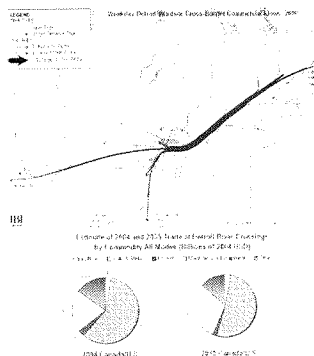
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## Detroit-Windsor: A Vital Link

- ❖ Approximately 28% of U.S.-Canada surface trade
- ❖ Over 80% of all goods crossing the Detroit River are carried by truck
- ❖ Significant to the economies of two nations
- ❖ The partnering governments must protect transportation services




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Detroit River International Crossing Study

Why DRIC?

❖ Redundancy

❖ Security

❖ Traffic

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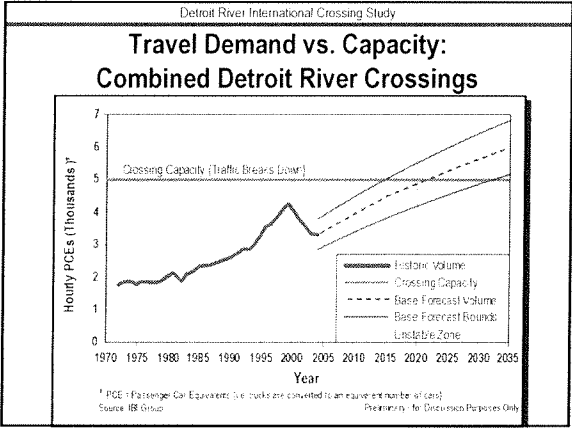
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Detroit River International Crossing Study

Study Costs

❖ Total Approved Budget

- ✓ approx. \$21.3 M
- ✓ includes 30% additional for Design work

❖ Dollars Paid to Date

- ✓ approx. \$5.2 M as of 3/20/06

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## Examples of Other Mega Project Environmental Studies

- ❖ Peace Bridge (NY) - \$17 M
- ❖ Louisville Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project - \$22.5
- ❖ Maryland Inter County Connector - \$29 M

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## MDOT and SEMCOG Plans

- ❖ 2001 – DRIC included in MDOT's Five Year Road & Bridge Program
- ❖ 2003 - Study included in SEMCOG's 2025 Long Range Plan

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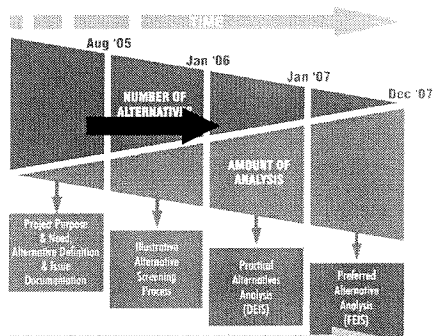
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## Overall Project Timeline




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What opportunities exist for public involvement?

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## Public Input Opportunities

Public Meeting Event	Date
A Study Kickoff	Mid April 2005
B Illustrative Alternatives Definition	Third week of June 2005
<b>C Scoping</b>	<b>August 31, 2005</b>
D Preliminary Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation	Second week of December 2005
E Practical Alternatives Selection	Third week of March 2006
F Refining Context Sensitive Issues 1	First week of April 2006
G Community Impact Assessment 1	First week of May 2006
H Refining Context Sensitive Issues 2	First week of June 2006
I Community Impact Assessment 2	First week of July 2006
J Refining Context Sensitive Issues 3	First week of August 2006
K DEIS Available for Review	Second week of December 2006
L DEIS Public Hearing	Second week of January 2007
M Recommended Alternative Presentation	Second week of December 2007

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## More Public Involvement




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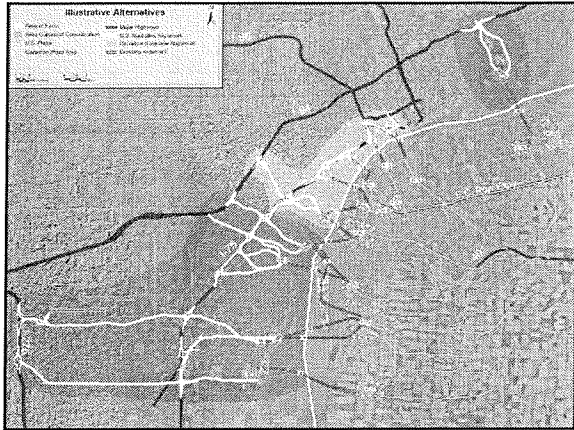
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Detroit River International Crossing Study

## Evaluation Results

- ❖ **Twinned Ambassador Bridge**
  - ✓ Impacts on community cohesion and character (including historical/cultural features)
  - ✓ Construction staging risks and complexities
  - ✓ Limited ability to provide continuous /ongoing river crossing capacity
- ❖ **Dropped from further consideration**

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## Evaluation Results

- ❖ **DRTP Rail Corridor**
  - ✓ As a two-lane truckway to refurbished rail tunnels:
    - inadequate capacity to meet the long term needs of the region
  - ✓ As a freeway with a new downtown crossing:
    - Unacceptably high impacts to central and southern Windsor
    - not consistent with Windsor's plans and land uses.
- ❖ **Dropped from further consideration**

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Detroit River International Crossing Study

U.S. Federal Highway Administration  
concurred with the  
Area of Continued Analysis

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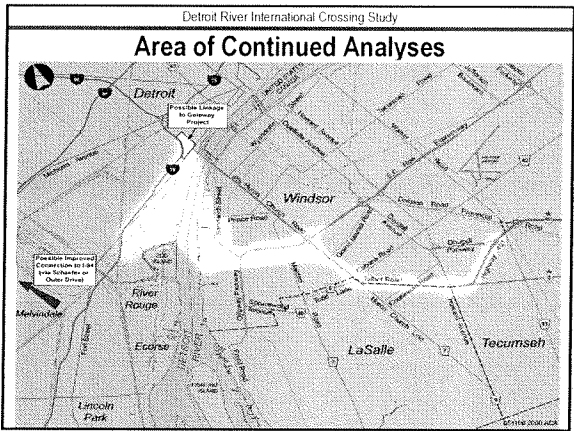
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Detroit River International Crossing Study

Project Support

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Michigan Department of Transportation

On January 14, 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the Detroit River International Crossing Study. The MOU outlines the commitment of both agencies to the study and the potential for a new international crossing between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario.

The MOU states that the USDOT and MDOT will work together to provide technical and financial support for the study. This support includes the provision of federal and state funds for the study, as well as the provision of technical expertise and resources.

The MOU also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the USDOT and MDOT in the study. The USDOT will provide the lead technical support, while the MDOT will provide the lead financial support. Both agencies will also provide ongoing communication and coordination throughout the study.

The MOU is a significant step in the development of the Detroit River International Crossing. It demonstrates the commitment of both agencies to the study and the potential for a new international crossing between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario.

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## Summary

- ❖ Continue plans for a new crossing
  - ✓ Complete EIS and obtain approval for a final location by the end of 2007
  - ✓ Other project phases, including design and ROW acquisition
  - ✓ Continue outreach efforts
  - ✓ New crossing open to traffic by 2013
- ❖ The Partnership has decided that the bridge will be subject to public oversight.
- ❖ Both countries must agree to make a new crossing happen!

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**[www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)**

**1-800-900-2649**

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